

City of Socorro

111 School of Mines Road
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Phone (575) 835-0240 www.socorronm.gov



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City Infrastructure Improvements

The City has nearly completed the crack seal, fog seal (a “light” coating of asphalt) and striping of some of the major city streets, making use of a \$350,000 state appropriation. It is putting the finishing touches on the School of Mines Road project, and \$864,000 of Federal Stimulus money has been allocated for improvements to California Street.

But street vehicle traffic is not the only concern for the City. The Socorro Municipal Airport also has seen improvements.

Airport

The airport terminal building was constructed in the 1940s. The State is providing \$20,000 to remodel it, making the restroom ADA compliant, and creating a more comfortable space where pilots can rest, fuel up, and check weather conditions.

The fuel pump is now equipped with a credit card reader. In the past a pilot had to call a city employee to come fill the plane’s tank.

An Automated Weather Observing Station (AWOS) with a computer and radio transmitter has been installed on a new tower to continuously broadcast weather information for pilots. It will go on the air as soon as the license is in place. This should increase use of the airport by making instrument approaches possible.

With all these technology upgrades and interior remodeling, there is still a bit of nostalgia in the terminal building: one wall displays the shirt tails

of pilots who took off on their first solo flight (and landed safely!) at the Socorro airport. Some of the tails go back 50 years.

What’s the draw to our little airport? It’s centrally located and an easy place to refuel for small planes on cross-country flights, for personal use by local pilots, and for events such as the new Mexico Tech golf tournament. It is used by 20 to 25 planes on a weekend.



Socorro Municipal Airport terminal during remodeling in May

Summer Youth Employment Program

Each summer the City of Socorro provides funding for students age 16 to 19 to work at some public facility within the City. Historically 45 to 110 students take advantage of the program, working for such entities as the City, Socorro County, New Mexico Tech, or Socorro General

Hospital. The students are paid minimum wage (\$7.50/hour) for 20 hours of work each week.

Applications for the program are available at City Hall. When students apply, they indicate the type of work they prefer (such as clerical, outdoor, mechanical) and the City attempts to match them with an available opening.

The program will begin in early June with an orientation to brief students on job etiquette and responsibilities.

For questions about the program, call Stephanie at 835-0240.

Summer Reading at the Library

“Be Creative at your Library” is the theme for this summer’s reading program, and June 1 is the day to start signing up. Children will receive a book bag with logs to record titles of books they read as well as a “sketch book” that will be stamped each time a child turns in a completed reading log. Readers receive tickets they can exchange for toys when they turn in their logs. At the end of the summer, the child with the most stamps in his or her sketch book wins a mountain bike donated by the Socorro Masonic Lodge. Children will compete in 3 age groups: 6 and under, 7-12, 13 and up.

Besides reading, a number of special events are planned. Pre-school story time is every Wednesday and Thursday morning at 10:30. Thursday afternoon from 2:30-4:30 is arts and crafts for kids in grades 1-6.

In June the New Mexico Department of Tourism’s Van of Enchantment will visit with its “Trails and Tails” exhibit, storyteller and singer Andy Mason makes an appearance, and the Socorro Fire Department will present fire safety.

In July, local artists Skeeter Leard and Barbara Szabo teach 2 special arts and crafts classes, Judy Pancoast presents “Stories and Songs with a

Laugh,” and on July 21 the library will have a special showing of the popular vampire romance movie “Twilight.”

The program ends with a party on July 28.

Visit the library for more details.

Farmers’ Market Opens!

If you’re hungering for garden-fresh produce, come on down to the plaza every Tuesday at 5:00pm or Saturday morning at 8:00 and stock up on locally grown produce from area growers. You’ll find greens (lettuce! Spinach! Chard!), beets, carrots, garlic, and plenty of other goodies (soon... tomatoes!) to satisfy that hunger. Check out the craft and honey vendors while you’re there.



A customer makes a purchase from A&J Farms at the Tuesday market on the plaza..

City Council

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